



# SECTOR OVERVIEW

## Emergencies: CARE In Action

### Overview

CARE International is one of the world's largest humanitarian organisations fighting global poverty. In the fiscal year 2016, CARE worked in 94 countries. We reached over eleven million people with life-saving emergency aid and support to recover and rebuild livelihoods and homes. With over 70 years of experience and long-term presence in many of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries, CARE takes a comprehensive approach to emergency response: first by working with communities to prepare for and mitigate the impact of disasters; then by partnering with local groups to provide immediate assistance when an emergency hits; and finally by working with affected communities to help them recover after the crisis has passed. CARE's emergency response is part of a long-term commitment, and we place great importance on working with local partners to build local capacity and resilience.

Our goal for the year 2020 is to continue to strengthen our humanitarian work to have a lasting impact for people affected by humanitarian crises. We place a special focus on women and girls, knowing they are often among the most and worst affected when emergencies strike. When women are empowered to decide for themselves how to address their needs and when they can actively participate

in the planning of our aid delivery, we can see the seeds of gender equality sprouting even in the rather short time span of an emergency response.

CARE is committed to meeting international standards of quality and accountability when we respond to emergencies.

### Before Emergencies Strike

For poor and vulnerable communities, the impact of an emergency can destroy hard-won gains in the fight against poverty. Good planning and preparedness can save lives, reduce the impact of disasters and help people recover more quickly. By incorporating methods for disaster risk reduction and plans for emergency preparedness into our long-term development programming, CARE helps people develop sustainable methods and strengthen community resilience to prepare for and respond to disasters – be it cyclones and floods in Asia or drought and food shortages in Africa. When given the skills and opportunities, women play an important part in disaster prevention and response, given their crucial role as caretakers of the family.

### During an Emergency

Dedicated resources for emergency response allow us to provide fast, effective relief to communities in need. With ongoing programs in many of the world's most disaster-prone countries, CARE has skilled staff already on the ground – 94 percent of them citizens of the countries where we work – and additional emergency specialists ready to deploy immediately from around the world. When disasters strike, CARE provides emergency food; relief supplies; sexual and reproductive health support; water, sanitation and shelter to address the needs of the most affected and most vulnerable people. We place special emphasis on empowering women and girls, recognizing that they are disproportionately affected by disasters and its after-effects.

***Our goal for the year 2020 is to continue to strengthen our humanitarian work to have a lasting impact for people affected by humanitarian crises, with a special focus on women and girls who are disproportionately affected by disasters.***

*CARE International Humanitarian and Emergency Strategy 2013-2020*



## After an Emergency

After the emergency phase has passed, CARE works with communities to recover. Our goal is to transition as quickly as possible from an emergency response to rehabilitation and then to sustained development. We help people help themselves and each other, for example through small business assistance and agricultural rehabilitation, thereby reducing their vulnerability to future emergencies. We provide psychosocial support to help people recover from trauma and promote better coping mechanisms through community activities.

***“CARE is committed to being accountable to women and girls by ensuring that they have a say in planning, implementing and evaluating our response. To put this into practice, CARE has a suite of tools and procedures in place to analyse a given humanitarian context and measure our impact.”***

*Philippe Guiton, CARE International's Humanitarian and Operations Director*

## Local Resources, Local Solutions

By buying materials locally whenever possible, we support local businesses and get supplies to the people in need more quickly. By partnering with local aid agencies and community groups and hiring local staff, we benefit from their knowledge of local language and culture and develop a deeper understanding of the people we serve. CARE places importance on building the capacity of local staff and partners in the countries where we work, by providing training, technical guidance and tools. We will specifically increase our support and funding to women-led local groups over the next years. Only with qualified staff already on the ground, we can respond immediately and quickly scale up our response.

## CARE's Technical Expertise

While each response is tailored to the needs of affected people, CARE's four main focus areas in emergencies are: food security; sexual and reproductive health and rights

(SRHR); shelter; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), all supported by a strong logistics capacity. In all our sectors we apply our 'Gender in Emergencies' lens: assessing and addressing the distinct needs of women, men, boys and girls. For CARE, looking at the gender dimension of an emergency is not just a tick-box exercise in planning an emergency response. We have procedures, tools and strategies in place to ensure the needs of men, women, boys and girls are heard and acted upon from the planning through the implementation and to the evaluation phase of each emergency response.

During an emergency, CARE coordinates with the local government and participates in the United Nations cluster system. This coordinated approach aims to ensure that humanitarian actors work together, reducing duplication of efforts and ensuring all people in need receive aid.

## CARE's Programming Principles

CARE follows a set of Programming Principles in our emergency, rehabilitation and long-term development work. CARE's principles are aligned with those of many other humanitarian agencies, and include:

- Promote empowerment
- Work in partnership with others
- Ensure accountability and promote responsibility
- Address discrimination
- Promote the non-violent resolution of conflicts
- Seek sustainable results

## Accountability

CARE's Humanitarian Accountability Framework brings together CARE's existing quality and accountability commitments, such as the programming principles and inter-agency standards. Central to these standards is a commitment that humanitarian agencies should be accountable for the quality of their work by ensuring that those affected by emergencies have a say in planning, implementing and evaluating our response and are fully informed of our activities. To ensure this happens and improve our performance, CARE measures its impact through a series of monitoring activities, as well as conducting internal and external evaluations. Over the past years, we have built our internal capacity to ensure we have the right tools and the right specialists in place. For example our 'Gender Marker' tool evaluates our interventions from the planning stage to delivering





assistance and rates a project's impact on the lives of affected women and girls. We analyse gender dynamics by collecting sex-and-age disaggregated data and preparing tools such as Gender Briefs, Gender Action Plans and Rapid Gender Analyses. This helps us to better understand the power imbalances and social injustices in a given emergency – and to ensure we provide a tailored support.

### Global Advocacy and Partnerships

CARE recognises the importance of advocating to and with other humanitarian actors including governments, the UN and peers in addition to delivering assistance. CARE remains engaged with high-level policy actors through our dedicated teams in Geneva, New York and Brussels, supported by specialists working around the globe. Our two advocacy focus areas are (a) Gender in Emergencies (ensuring that the way women, men, girls and boys are affected differently by crisis is taken into account by all humanitarian actors) and (b) ensuring an appropriate global response to the biggest, most urgent crises.

CARE is an active member of several humanitarian networks that share a common goal to improve quality and accountability in humanitarian action and to alleviate poverty through policy change. Key networks in which CARE is involved or is a signatory to:

- Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)
- Charter4Change
- Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief
- Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance (CHS-Alliance)
- InterAction
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
- Inter-Agency Working Group (IWG)
- International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
- Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)
- The Sphere Project
- Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE)

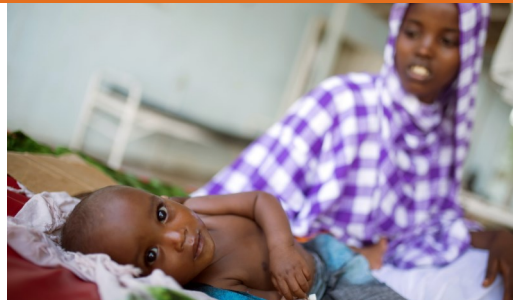
### Donors

CARE's emergency work is made possible with the support of our donors, which include United Nations agencies, the European Commission, national governments, private individuals, foundations, and corporations. CARE maintains low overhead costs, with approximately 90 percent of donations going to support CARE's programming.

*In 2016, CARE's emergency response and recovery projects reached 11 million people directly in 58 countries.*

### Main emergency and recovery interventions in 2016

**Afghanistan:** Complex IDP Crisis; **Balkans (Serbia, Croatia):** Refugee influx into Europe; **Bangladesh:** Floods; **Cambodia:** El Nino Drought; **Chad:** Nigerian Refugees Influx; **Ecuador:** Earthquake; **Egypt:** Syrian Refugees Crisis; **Ethiopia:** El Nino Drought ; **Fiji:** Cyclone Winston; **Greece:** Europe Refugee Crisis; **Iraq:** Conflict; **Jordan:** Syrian Refugees Crisis; **Lebanon:** Syrian Refugees Crisis; **Madagascar:** El Nino Drought; **Malawi:** El Nino Drought; **Mali:** Food Insecurity and Conflict; **Mozambique:** El Nino Drought; **Niger:** Nigerian Refugees & Displacement; **Pakistan:** Complex IDP Crisis; **Papua New Guinea:** El Nino Drought; **Rwanda:** Floods & Landslides; **Somalia:** El Nino Drought; **South Sudan:** Renewed Conflict; **Sri Lanka:** Floods & Landslides; **Syria:** Conflict; **Timor Leste:** El Nino Drought; **Turkey:** Syrian Refugees Crisis; **Uganda:** South Sudanese Refugees influx; **Vanuatu:** El Nino Drought; **Vietnam:** El Nino Drought; **Yemen:** Conflict; **Zimbabwe:** El Nino Drought



## CARE International's Humanitarian Mandate Statement

### Goal

- Responding to humanitarian emergencies is an essential part of CARE's work to fight poverty and injustice and we recognize that emergencies are a cause and effect of both. CARE helps people cope with crises through disaster risk reduction, emergency relief, preparedness and post-crisis recovery.

### Objectives

- The primary objective of humanitarian response is to meet immediate needs of affected populations in the poorest communities in the world. Recognizing that people have the fundamental right to life with dignity, CARE also strives to address the underlying causes of people's vulnerability.
- CARE is a major force in humanitarian response and has a responsibility as a leader in the sector to demonstrate the highest standards of effectiveness and quality.

### Principles

- CARE is a signatory of and holds itself accountable to accepted international humanitarian principles, standards and codes of conduct, including the Code of Conduct for The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, and the Sphere and Humanitarian Accountability Partnership principles and standards.
- CARE adheres to the principle of impartiality so that we provide assistance on the basis of need regardless of race, creed or nationality. CARE is committed to addressing the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, in times of crisis.
- CARE upholds the principle of working independently of political, commercial, military, or religious objectives and promotes the protection of humanitarian space.

### Approach

- CARE believes that local capacity can provide the most effective response to emergencies. However, by their very nature, emergencies often overwhelm local capacities, and in such situations CARE will respond in an appropriate, timely and effective way.
- CARE will respond wherever we can add value by:

- Providing additional resources
- Enhancing the quality of response
- Committing to longer-term solutions
- Building local capacities

- We have a range of response options:

- Providing direct relief
- Working with and through partners
- Advocating with national and international bodies
- Keeping the general public informed

- CARE develops focused expertise both operationally and at the global policy level in certain specific humanitarian areas.
- In keeping with our programming principles, CARE develops both local and international partnerships to strengthen local capacities and to add value through collaborative approaches.
- CARE brings a longer-term view to its humanitarian work, including supporting people to be less vulnerable to disasters in the first place. Where appropriate, our programs link emergency relief, recovery, and long-term development, and include measures for disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

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Founded in 1945, CARE is one of the leading international humanitarian organizations fighting global poverty. CARE International is an independent, non-partisan, non-religious confederation comprised of 14 member organizations, with the CARE International Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland. In the fiscal year 2015, CARE worked in 95 countries, supporting 890 poverty-fighting development and humanitarian aid projects, to reach 65 million people. For more information, follow us on Twitter @CAREGlobal, visit [www.care-international.org](http://www.care-international.org) or contact us at [cisecretariat@careinternational.org](mailto:cisecretariat@careinternational.org).

